

CHAPTER 6

OPTICAL SUPPORT

6-1. General

a. This chapter outlines the optical support provided to the TO. Optical support includes—

- Fabrication of single-vision and multivision prescription lenses.
- Fabrication of standard spectacles.
- Fabrication of aviation spectacles.
- Fabrication of protective mask inserts.
- Military standard spectacle frame repair.
- Provision of contact lenses for selected aviators (Army helicopter [AH]-64 “Apache” aviators only).

b. Optical fabrication laboratories are responsible for making only those spectacles and protective vision devices that require corrective prescription lenses. Nonprescription lenses are a Class II item and are the quartermaster’s responsibility.

c. To reduce the optical work load in the TO, soldiers will be issued the following prior to deployment—

- Two pairs of standard military spectacles.
- One pair of protective mask inserts or contact lenses (AH-64 aviators only).

6-2. Echelons I and II Optical Support

a. There is no organic optical support at Echelon I. Patients requiring optometric

services initially report to the BAS. For those patients requiring only routine replacement of spectacles, necessary information is obtained from the individual and forwarded to the division optometry section, MSMC. The required spectacles are fabricated and returned to the BAS for issue to the individual. For optometry services other than routine repair or replacement of spectacles, patients are transported to the optometry section.

b. The FSMC, FSB, will request replacement of corrective eyewear for units in the BSA. The FSMC submits replacement request to the MSMC via the best communications available with delivery back to the requester.

c. The optometry section of the MSMC is responsible for providing single-vision fabrication and limited eyewear repair to units in the supported division. If appropriate materials are not available at the MSMC or the prescription exceeds the MSMC fabrication capability, it is passed to the MEDLOG battalion (forward) for fabrication with return of the prescription to the requester.

d. Separate brigades and ACRs have optometric support with limited eyewear repair capabilities, but no optical fabrication capabilities. All requests for prescription eyewear are forwarded via data link to the MEDLOG battalion (forward) for fabrication and return to the requester.

6-3. Echelon III Optical Support

a. The optometry section of the ASMB is responsible for providing single-vision fabrication and repair of corrective eyewear for units on an area basis. All medical units, except Echelon III hospitals, are supported by the

supporting medical company of the ASMB. Prescriptions and/or replacement requests which cannot be filled from on-hand stock or which exceed the ASMB capability are passed to the MEDLOG battalion (forward) via the best communications available with delivery back to the requester.

b. Echelon III hospitals request optical support from the MEDLOG battalion (forward) with delivery back to the requester.

c. The MEDLOG battalion (forward) provides single-vision optical fabrication to the corps area. All prescriptions requested from the MEDLOG battalion (forward) optical section that cannot be filled are passed to the MEDLOG battalion (rear) with delivery of the request back to the originating medical activity.

6-4. Echelon IV Optical Support

a. As in the corps, the optometry section of the ASMB is responsible for providing single-vision fabrication and repair of corrective eyewear on an area basis for units in the COMMZ. All medical units, except Echelon IV hospitals, are supported by the supporting medical company of the ASMB. Prescriptions and/or replacement requests which cannot be filled from on-hand stock or which exceed the ASMB capability are passed to the MEDLOG

battalion (rear) via the best communications available with delivery back to the requester.

b. Echelon IV hospitals request optical support from the MEDLOG battalion (rear) with delivery back to the requester.

c. The MEDLOG battalion (rear) provides single-vision and multivision support to EAC and GS (backup) to the corps. All prescriptions requested from the MEDLOG battalion (rear) optical section that cannot be filled are passed through the TMMMC to the CONUS support base (USAMMA). Delivery of the item(s) from CONUS will be to the request originator.

6-5. Contact Lenses

a. Currently, contact lenses are only authorized for aviators of the AH-64 Apache. Standard refractive error correction options for the M-43 protective mask have proven to be incompatible with the helmet and the display sighting system component of the AH-64 Apache.

b. Issue of contact lenses to authorized users will be through a blanket purchasing agreement (BPA) with decentralized ordering and distribution. Practitioners providing contact lenses care will request contact lenses via the BPA.